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Rayville, LA

Com Ramona Haire  
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Com Rodney Hutchins  
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Com James Mayo  
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Com Jerry R Peters  
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Com Shelton Ruffin  
West Carroll Parish  
Oak Grove, LA

Com Charles Venable  
Ouachita Parish  
Monroe, LA

Theo Coenen, III  
Attorney at Law  
Rayville, LA

Hon Jack Kealey  
President  
Caldwell Parish  
Columbia, LA

John C Stringer  
Executive Director  
Monroe, LA

Com Harris Brown  
Vice President  
Ouachita Parish  
Monroe, LA

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**TENSAS BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT  
505 DISTRICT DRIVE  
MONROE, LA 71202  
PHONE: 318 323-1130  
FAX: 318 323-1177**

August 22, 2003

Ms Marlene H Dortch Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S W  
Washington, D C 20554

Re In The Matter Of Improving Public Safety Communications In The 800 MHz Band, WT  
Docket No 02-55 (*Ex Parte*)

Dear Madam Secretary

The TENSAS LEVEE BASIN DISTRICT is writing to express its opposition to Nextel's so-called "Consensus Plan" and to urge the FCC to adopt the "Balanced Approach," which was filed on May 29, 2003. As discussed below in greater detail, we believe that the Consensus Plan will unnecessarily jeopardize Public Safety communication systems. Instead, the FCC should adopt a solution, such as the Balanced Approach, that does not require Public Safety licensees to relocate and does not reduce their interference protection.

The TENSAS LEVEE BASIN DISTRICT has licensed an 800 MHz communications system, which is used by employees of the Levee district. The communications system supports a number of the District's activities including normal dispatching and communications and also emergency response systems.

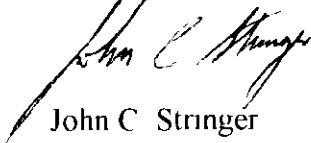
We are concerned that the Consensus Plan's relocation process is extremely complicated and there is no guarantee that Public Safety licensees will be able to continually operate their communications systems during this process. Furthermore, it is unrealistic to expect all Public Safety licensees to relocate in 12 months or less given the complexity of some Public Safety systems.

*[Handwritten signature and initials]*

Also, Public Safety licensees could be subject to more interference because the Consensus Plan protects Public Safety licensees only if they meet certain signal strength and receiver requirements. Because most Public Safety communication systems do not meet these requirements, they will have to expend significant resources to ensure that they are protected from interference. Further, the interference situation could be worse if rebanding is not completed before Nextel's funding runs out.

Therefore, the TENSAS BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT supports the Balanced Approach, which is superior to the Consensus Plan because it takes pro-active steps to immediately deal with Public Safety interference by relying on technical solutions and increased enforcement. As a result, this proposal is less disruptive and less expensive than the Consensus Plan so Public Safety communications will not be jeopardized. For all the reasons stated above, the TENSAS LEVEE BASIN DISTRICT urges the FCC to adopt the Balanced Approach.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Stringer", written over a horizontal line.

John C. Stringer

Executive Director